[Translation]

Population

2829. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKAR :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
PROT. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV
SHRI ANNA SAHIB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the population in the country is increasing day by day;

(b) if so. the names of the States which have shown higher rate of growth of population;

(c) whether any assessment of the anticipated growth of population in the country by 2001 has been made by the Government;

(d) if so. the details thereof;

(e) the steps Union Government propose to take to control the population growth and achieve the target. and

(f) the reasons for not achieving the requisite target of population control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per latest Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates for 1994. The States/UTs having higher *natural increase as compared to all India* are Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan. Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and D&N Haveli

(c) and (d). The projected population for the country as on 1st March, 2001 will be 1006 million as per the Standing Committee's projections.

(e) The steps taken, inter-alia, include (i) Integrated Reproductive Child Health (RCH) package with emphasis on quality and clients satisfaction (ii) increased involvement of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) (iii) Implementation of Family Welfare Programme on the basis of target free approach effective from 1996-97 with emphasis on quality of care and clients satisfaction making Family Planning Programme (iv) externally aided projects in States higher growth rate.

(f) There are wide State-wise variations in adoption of family planning programme which inter-alia depends on factors like strong son preference, low female literacy. low age at marriage and socio-economic conditions.

[English]

Indian Fishermen in Pak custody

2830. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.538 on July 15, 1996 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only 17 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan during the last three years:

(b) the purpose of holding technical level talks with Pakistan in this regard;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the present efforts made by the Indian High Commission in Pakistan to get the Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails released are repatriated to India; and

(d) if not. the concrete measures Government propose to take to get all the Indian fishermen and other Indian prisoners in the custody of Pakistan released early and repartriated to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) 171 Indian fishermen were released and repatriated from Pakistan in the last three years. The figure of 17, which had appeared in the English version of the reply under reference was due to a technical copying fault. A statement correcting the reply to unstarred question No.538 answered on 15th July, 1996 will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Technical level talks are essential to address legal and administrative issues concerning the modalities of exchange.

(c) and (d). The Indian High Commission in Islamabad is making all necessary endeavours in this matter and is regularly pursuing the issue with the concerned Pakistani authorities.

Modernisation of Ports and Docks

2831. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to modernise ports and docks in the country: and

(b) the funds sanctioned during the current five year plan for this purpose so far year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) In the 8th Five Year Plan. an outlay of Rs. 3216 crores has been provided for port sector including modernisation and development of major ports.